



## MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA POSSESSION

**Effective Date:** August 1, 2007

**Policy #:** PH - 13

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- I. PURPOSE:** To describe procedures for handling medical marijuana legally in the possession of persons-served at the time of admission.
- II. POLICY:** Montana State Hospital recognizes that Montana Law permits certain individuals to legally possess and use small amounts of marijuana to help manage symptoms of debilitating medical conditions.

Montana State Hospital provides co-occurring treatment for psychiatric illnesses and substance abuse. Effective treatment for these conditions normally requires the individual to abstain from using commonly abused substances including alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs, and prescription drugs.

Marijuana use is not permitted for persons served at Montana State Hospital. Marijuana use may not be ordered or authorized by any prescriber on the Hospital's staff.

When legal authority to possess marijuana can be established, it will be treated similarly to legally prescribed medications that may be in the individual's possession at the time of admission and sent to the Hospital pharmacy.

At the time of discharge, the primary licensed prescriber responsible for the person's treatment will make a decision concerning whether the marijuana may safely be returned to the individual. If, in the opinion of the prescriber, a determination is made that the marijuana may not be safely returned, it will be disposed of by the pharmacy in a similar manner to that used for prescription medication determined to be unsafe.

If authorization to possess marijuana cannot be quickly established at the time of admission, it may be disposed of or turned over to law enforcement personnel. Legal authority to possess marijuana is established by presenting a Registry Identification Card issued by the Montana Dept. of Public Health and Human Services.

- III. DEFINITIONS:** None
- IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Pharmacy will establish internal procedures for handling marijuana that may be sent to the pharmacy.

**V. PROCEDURE:**

1. At the time of admission, hospital staff completes an inventory all belongings in the possession of persons admitted for services. If a person is found to be in possession of marijuana, they will be asked to present a Registry Identification Card.
2. If the person can present the card, the marijuana will be sent to the pharmacy for storage using the same procedures in place for prescription medications. (Refer to HOPP #NS-02)
3. If the person cannot produce a Registry Identification Card, the marijuana will be destroyed under the supervision of at least two employees including a supervisor, or it may be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
4. The Hospital will not store paraphernalia commonly used to smoke marijuana such as pipes, bongs, etc. Paraphernalia will be destroyed or turned over to law enforcement authorities.
5. The Hospital Administrator and Director of Nursing will be informed anytime a patient is admitted is in possession of marijuana.

**VI. REFERENCES:** HOPP #NS-02 “Medication Administration & Safe Handling; Montana Medical Marijuana Act – Sec. 50-46-201, M.C.A.

**VII. COLLABORATED WITH:** Hospital Administrator, Director Of nursing, Pharmacy, DPHHS Quality Assurance Division

**VIII. RESCISSIONS:** None, new policy

**IX. DISTRIBUTION:** All hospital policy manuals

**X. REVIEW AND REISSUE DATE:** August 2010

**XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Director of Nursing

**XII. ATTACHMENTS:** None

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Ed Amberg Date  
Hospital Administrator